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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 09/531,016
Filing Date: March 20, 2000
Appellant(s): EDLUND ET AL.

LACASSE & ASSOCIATES, LLC
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 12/15/2004.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Invention

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Issues

(6) Issues

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) Grouping of Claims

The rejection of claims 22, 24, 26-27, and 29-43 stand or fall together because appellant's brief does not include a statement that this grouping of claims does not stand or fall together and reasons in support thereof. See 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

(8) Claims Appealed

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Prior Art of Record

63698840 Barnett et al. 6,369,840

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 22, 24, 26-27, and 29-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barnett et al. ("Barnett", U.S. Pat. No. 6,3698,840).

Per claim 22, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service comprising the steps of:

receiving a calendar entry for an event associated with a topic subscriber (fig. 6; calendar event: 601, col. 9, lines 48-59; a calendar entry for an event is received when a calendar event 601 of fig. 6 is being created by a project leader as described in col. 10, lines 1-10);

identifying a category associated with said calendar entry and at least one service associated with said category (col. 9, lines 48-58; col. 10, lines 1-10 and lines 23-42; an event category is identified from the calendar entry to be displayed as an event category of fig. 6);

mapping said event to a set of topic names for said services (figs 7A, 7B; topic names: 706);

identifying one or more topic channels which are associated with said topic names, said topic channels linked with topic channels remotely provide by said topic publisher (fig. 15; col. 10, lines 15-20; col. 10, lines 23-43);

incorporating, within said event, a link to said one or more topic channels of said event (figs. 7A and 7B; links: 706; col. 11, lines 22-27), and

receiving frequently updated service messages from said topic publisher for said topic names and topic channels that are associated with said event (col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 24, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, comprising the additional step of parsing said calendar event to identify at least one event category, wherein said at least one event category is used when determining said one or more topic channels (col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 1-10; the calendar event is being parsed to be displayed as an event category of fig. 6).

Per claim 26, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, comprising the additional step of parsing said calendar event to identify at least one event characteristic, wherein said at least one event characteristic is used when determining said one or more topic channels (col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 27, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, wherein said step of incorporating a link further comprises: for each of said one or more topic channels, performing the steps:

determining if a link to a related service already exists (col. 10, lines 54-67);

if said link to said service does not exist, creating and opening said link, (col. 11, lines 3-6).

Per claim 29, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, wherein said one or more topic channels are provided by a topic publisher providing an information service (col. 10, lines 23-53; col. 11, lines 8-27).

Per claim 30, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, further comprising the step: storing in a persistnt computer storage, said calendar event (col. 10, lines 43-53).

Per claim 31, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, wherein said method is implemented locally or remotely on one or more computer-based systems (col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 32, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, wherein said method is implemented across networks comprising any of LANs, WANs, cellular, Internet, or Web-based networks (figs. 6, and 7A-7B; col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 33, Barnett teaches a method of linking calendar events to service messages from a topic publisher comprising the steps:

receiving a calendar entry for an event associated with a topic subscriber(fig. 6; calendar event: 601, col. 9, lines 48-59; a calendar entry for an event is received when a calendar event 601 of fig. 6 is being created by a project leader as described in col. 10, lines 1-10);

determining a set of topic names for at least one service associated with said calendar entry (figs. 7A and 7B; topic names: 706);

for each particular topic name in said set of topic names, performing the following steps:

determining if a corresponding topic channel exists, for said particular topic name, said topic channels link with topic channels remotely provided by said topic publisher (col. 10, lines 23-43 and lines 54-67);

if said topic channel does not exist, then creating a corresponding topic channel (col. 11, lines 3-7);

adding said corresponding topic channel to a set of topic channels (col. 10, lines 43-67);

for each topic channel in said set of topic channels, creating a link, in said calendar event, to said topic channel (col. 10, lines 43-53; col. 11, lines 8-27), and

receiving frequently updated service messages form said topic publisher for said topic names and topic channels that are associated with said event (col. 10, lines 28-43).

Per claim 34, Barnett teaches a method of linking calendar events to service messages from a topic publisher, as per claim 33, wherein said step of determining a set of topic names further comprises the steps:

extracting from said calendar event one or more event descriptors, and

determining, based on said one or more event descriptors, said set of topic names (col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 35, Barnett teaches a method of linking calendar events to service messages from a topic publisher, as per claim 34, wherein said one or more event descriptors are event categories (col. 9, lines 48-59).

Per claim 36, Barnett teaches a method of linking calendar events to service messages from a topic publisher, as per claim 34, wherein said one or more event descriptors are event characteristics (col. 9, lines 55-59).

Per claim 37, Barnett teaches a method of linking calendar events to service messages from a topic publisher, as per claim 33), wherein said method is implemented across networks comprising any of LANs, WANs, cellular, Internet, or Web-based networks (figs. 6, and 7A-7B; col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 38, Barnett teaches a method of linking calendar events to service messages from a topic publisher, as per claim 33, wherein said method is implemented locally or remotely on one or more computer-based systems (col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 39, Barnett teaches a subscription system for mapping a topic subscriber creating electronic calendar events to a topic publisher, said system comprising:

a calendar server handling request for a new calendar entry (col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 15-23; the examiner considers a calendar entry for an event is that the calendar event 601 of fig. 6 is being created by a project leader as described in col. 10, lines 1-10), said server comprising:

a request handler receiving a request for said calendar entry for an event associated with a topic subscriber to be scheduled (col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 10),

a topic selector for identifying a category associated with said calendar entry and at least one service associated with said category (col. 9, lines 48-58; col. 10, lines 1-10 and lines 23-42; an event category is identified from the calendar entry to be displayed as an event category of fig. 6);

a topic binding repository mapping said calendar event to a set of topic names for said services (figs 6, and 7A-7B; col. 10, lines 43-53; col. 11, lines 22-27),

a topic finder, determining the existence of a set of topic channels provided by said topic publisher, wherein said channels correspond to said topic names received from said repository, and said topic finder further identifying at least a first and second subset of said set of topic channels (col. 10, lines 54-67);

said first subset populated by topic channels which currently exist within said calendar system (col. 10, lines 54-67);

said second subset populated by topic channels which currently do not exist within said calendar system (col. 11, lines 3-7);

a topic creator, creating within the calendar system a set of new topic channels corresponding to each element of said second subset, said topic creator then returning said new channels to said topic finder in order to establish a subscription for frequently updated collections of information to be forwarded to a topic selector, said topic selector retrieving said topic names and topic channels associated with said calendar event as established by said topic finder, and wherein said request handler processes said calendar event by adding a link in said calendar event to each associated topic channel received from said topic selector, said topic channel passing messages from a topic publisher to a topic subscriber (fig. 6, and 7A-7B; col. 10, lines 23-53), and

frequently updating service messages form said topic publisher for said topic names and topic channels associated with said event (col. 10, lines 28-43).

Per claim 40, Barnett teaches a subscription system for mapping a topic subscriber creating electronic calendar events to a topic publisher, as per claim 39, wherein said repository

also extracts at least one event category for said calendar event which said repository uses to determine said list of topic names (col. 10, lines 23-43).

Per claim 41, Barnett teaches a subscription system for mapping a topic subscriber creating electronic calendar events to a topic publisher, as per claim 39, wherein said repository also extracts at least one event characteristic for said calendar event which said repository uses to determine said list of topic names (col. 9, lines 55-59).

Claim 42 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 22.

Per claim 43, Barnett teaches a method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service, as per claim 22, wherein said step of identifying one or more topic channels further comprises the step wherein if no topic channels are identified for a specific topic name, creating a new topic channel corresponding to said specific topic name, wherein said new topic channel links said calendar entry with a corresponding topic channel remotely provided by a topic publisher (col. 10 , line 54-col. 11, lines 27).

(11) Response to Argument

Claim 22, the appellant argues, "in the present invention, a user creates a calendar event, such as a trip to Boston, MA and it is received by the system. The system then **automatically maps the entry to services** such as weather and flight schedules (topic names). From those services, topic channels are determined so that a link can be created **to constantly provide up-to-date information** for weather and flight schedules related to Boston, MA". In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., an automated system to map the calendar

entry to services and links that are constantly provide up-to-date information) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In this case, the Barnett's reference reads on the claim language of receiving a calendar entry for an event associated with a topic subscriber *(fig. 6; calendar events: 601, col. 9, lines 48-59; a calendar entry for an event is received when a calendar event 601 of fig. 6 is being created by a project leader as described in col. 10, lines 1-10. The calendar event is associated with topic subscriber (content partners or data sources, see col. 10, lines 15-17 and lines 25-28));*

identifying a category associated with said calendar entry and at least one service associated with said category *(an event category is identified from the calendar entry to be displayed as an event category of fig. 6, see col. 9, lines 48-58; col. 10, lines 3-10 and lines 23-42)*;

mapping said event to a set of topic names for said services *(the event 601 is being mapped to a set of topic names (topic names 706 of figs 7A and 7B) for said services, see col. 11, lines 8-27)*;

identifying one or more topic channels which are associated with said topic names, said topic channels linked with topic channels remotely provide by said topic publisher *(one or more topic channels are identified, see fig. 15, external data sources 150; col. 10, lines 15-20; col. 10, lines 23-43)*;

incorporating, within said event, a link to said one or more topic channels of said event *(new movies releases event (601 of fig. 6) is linked to data (link 706 of fig. 7A and 7B) from external sources (topic channels) see col. 11, lines 22-27)*, and

receiving frequently updated service messages from said topic publisher for said topic names and topic channels that are associated with said event *(col. 10, lines 23-43 and lines 58-60)*.

Claims 24 and 26, the appellant argues "the present invention allows user to create a **unique entry**, and from that entry the **system provides links that are related to the event** such that the user may receive service messages associated with the event". In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a unique entry and the system provides link that are related to the event) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In this case, the Barnett's reference reads on the claim language of parsing said calendar event to identify at least one event category or characteristics, wherein said at least one event category or characteristic is used when determining said one or more topic channels *(the calendar event is being parsed to be displayed as an event category of fig. 6, see col. 9, lines 60-67; col. 10, lines 1-10)*.

Claim 27, the appellant argues that Barrett does not teache the limitations of claim 27. The examiner does not agree because Barret teaches determining if a link to a related service already exists *(in Barrett, event data are provided as links and such links data are being read*

from external sources or channels stored in event cache 101 of fig. 1, see col. 10, lines 54-67), if said link to said service does not exist, creating and opening said link *(in Barrett, if said event data or links are not in cache, the application server 106 initiates a read from event database 114, see col. 11, lines 3-6)*.

Claims 29-32, appellant states "claims 29-32 are dependent on claim 22 and therefore the above arguments apply to each of theses claims". The rejection for claim 22 is explained in the above response to argument.

Claim 43 is rejected under the same reason as explained in claim 27.

Claim 33, in response to arguments for claim 33, the examiner does not agree with the appellant for the same reasons as explained in claims 22 and 27.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 12, 2005

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